



Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

MAYORS PEREZ, FINCH, AND DESTEFANO PLEASED WITH PROPOSED LEVEL OF FUNDING FOR CITIES AND TOWNS

---NEWS STATEMENTS---

(February 4, 2009)--- Hartford Mayor Eddie A. Perez, Bridgeport Mayor Bill Finch, and New Haven Mayor John DeStefano, Jr. have issued the following statements regarding proposed state funding for cities and towns:

Statement from Mayor Perez:

“Today’s announcement by Governor Rell that her budget maintains this year’s level of funding for cities and towns is welcome news and a very good first step as we begin this budget debate. Cities such as Hartford serve as the largest job centers for our state residents. In this time of economic crisis, it makes sense to invest in the communities that both provide the most social services to the people of Connecticut and tens of thousands of jobs for working families in the state. I look forward to collaborating with Governor Rell, Speaker Donovan and Senator Williams to guarantee the greatest amount of state support possible is provided for our city and its residents.”

Statement from Mayor Finch:

“The Governor, and the state of Connecticut, is facing many tough decisions – many of which we have already had to face here in Bridgeport. I applaud Governor Rell for preventing cuts to ECS funding for the next two years as these funds are essential to the functioning of our City and its school system. I also thank her for not cutting critical funding to cities and towns. Cutting these two sources of funding would have led to massive tax increases and drastic service reductions on the local level.

“I am heartened by the Governor’s allocation of \$40 million dollars to begin regionalizing municipal government services, an idea whose time has come in the state, and one which I fully support. I also support Gov. Rell’s allocation of funding for “green-collar” jobs and, the \$7.5 million she plans to allocate for the Connecticut Conservation Corps initiative. Both of these initiatives are vital to providing jobs and reinvigorating our economy in the months to come.

“This coming year will be a difficult one for our legislative leaders, but I, and my fellow big-city mayors plan to help in any way we can.”

Statement from Mayor DeStefano:

“I’d like to recognize the work that was put in by Governor Rell and her staff to maintain levels of funding for municipalities in her biennial budget. Connecticut faces many challenges as do the state’s largest cities. Critical to meeting these challenges will be the ability for mayors to work with the administration as well as senate and house leadership to achieve funding needs for cities. This budget introduced by the Governor today, while not fully funding all of the City’s objectives, is a good first step in the process to foster a solid working relationship that achieves our collective goals.”